

To: Albright, David[Albright.David@epa.gov]; McWhirter, Lisa[McWhirter.Lisa@epa.gov]
Cc: Dermer, Michele[Dermer.Michele@epa.gov]
From: Rao, Kate
Sent: Tue 9/15/2015 9:01:21 PM
Subject: FW: News Release Distribution (STATE OFFICIALS TO HOLD AQUIFER EXEMPTION HEARING IN SAN LUIS OBISPO)

FYI ...

Kate Rao
Drinking Water Protection Section (WTR 3-2)
USEPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: (415) 972-3533 / fax: (415) 947-3549

From: Zito, Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 1:57 PM
To: Keener, Bill; Mogharabi, Nahal; Rao, Kate
Subject: FW: News Release Distribution

From: Schilling, Teresa@DOC [<mailto:Teresa.Schilling@conservation.ca.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 1:52 PM
To: PAO@DOC
Subject: News Release Distribution

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Teresa Schilling or Don Drysdale
Release # 2015-20

(916) 323-1886 or pao@conservation.ca.gov
2015

September 15,

STATE OFFICIALS TO HOLD AQUIFER EXEMPTION HEARING IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN LUIS OBISPO – State regulators will take public comments on a proposal to expand the existing aquifer exemption in the Arroyo Grande oil field at a September 21 meeting.

The proposed aquifer exemption would allow the State, in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, to approve injection into the identified area, either for enhanced oil recovery or for disposal of waste fluids associated with oil and gas production. The expanded exemption would apply to the Dollie sands of the Pismo formation in the Arroyo Grande oil field in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, near the intersection of Ormonde Road and Price Canyon Road.

The California Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) preliminarily concur that this formation meets U.S. EPA and state criteria for an exemption. A comprehensive scientific analysis indicates that (1) the aquifer is not a current source of drinking water and will not be a source of drinking water in the future because it is hydrocarbon producing or contains hydrocarbons that are expected to be commercially producible, (2) the injection of fluids will not affect the quality of water that is, or may reasonably be, used for any beneficial use, and (3) the injected fluid will remain in the aquifer.

If DOGGR and the SWRCB continue to concur that this formation qualifies for an aquifer exemption following the public comment period and public hearing, the proposal will be subject to approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The public hearing will be conducted from 4-7 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott, 1605 Calle Joaquin Road, San Luis Obispo. Comments also can be emailed to comments@conservation.ca.gov by 8 p.m. September 21.

Documents related to the Aquifer Exemption proposal can be found at http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/Aquifer_Exemptions.aspx.

###

